

Beauvoir, Harrison Co., Miss.,

17th Oct. 1882.

Kind & dear Friend,

Your letter of the 14th of Sept. has been received and would have been sooner answered but that I have been so frequently ill as to cause a delay in even the most pressing correspondence. When, with such conditions as produce required me to suggest, I accepted the invitation to deliver an address upon the character & conduct of Genl. R. E. Lee, it was because the occasion was one which my feelings would not permit me to decline.

For sometime past I have steadily, & occasionally with sincere regret, declined to deliver addresses or occasions to me very attractive. To offer my tribute to Genl. Lee, when asked to do so, was the particular thing which I felt com-

pledged to accept. The time fixed, June
is unfavorable because of the heat of the
season, but I, I expect to be
with you. It has never been my habit
to write out an address beforehand or to
more than prepare very brief notes
to remind me of the mental prepa-
ration I had previously made & in the
confidence with which I always write
to you I will confess that a Disc.
prepared beforehand would I believe
be inferior to what the inspiration
of such an occasion as you propose
would produce.

Fully conscious of the precariousness
of the retention of strength, even if
life should be spared, I will in defer-
ence to your wish & that of the Executive
Com. as soon as health & leisure
will permit endeavor to prepare in
the form of Disc. the address I have
been requested to deliver. In this con-

reaction I will candidly say that in my
opinion there are many others who could
perform the duty more ably than my-
self, none however who would do it
more cordially & it may be from per-
sonal & official relations that your
estimate of the address delivered by
myself will in the eyes of others be
more than its inherent value.

My family join in kindest regards
to your family & yourself and I am
with lifelong affection,

Faithfully yours,
Jefferson Davis

Rev Genl. William Nelson Pendleton
Lyngton,
Va